

IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly AMEND the claims as follows:

1-5. (canceled)

6. (amended) A canine head halter, comprising:

a collar member configured and arranged to encircle a canine neck behind the ears and below the chin, said collar member including a top strap respectively connected at first and second ends thereof to first and second metal collar rings, and a bottom strap respectively connected at first and second ends thereof to the first and second collar rings to thereby form a continuous loop;

a snout loop configured and arranged to encircle the canine snout including a single lofted upper nose member ~~respectively directly connected at with closed~~ first and second ends thereof to first and second metal snout loop rings, and an under chin member respectively connected at first and second ends thereof to the first and second snout loop rings to thereby form a continuous loop;

a first cheek strap connecting the first collar ring to the first snout loop ring;

a second cheek strap connecting the second collar ring to the second snout loop ring; and

an under chin strap connected at a first end to the bottom strap of said collar member and connected at a second end to a metal cinch ring, wherein a portion of the under chin member of said snout loop is drawn through the cinch ring for attachment to a dog leash.

7. (amended) A canine head halter, comprising:

a collar member configured and arranged to encircle a canine neck behind the ears and below the chin;

a snout loop configured and arranged to encircle the canine snout, said snout loop having a ~~unitary~~ non-flat portion with closed ends to directly contact the upper canine snout when worn;

first and second cheek straps directly connecting the collar member to the ~~unitary~~ non-flat portion; and

an under chin strap connected at a first end to said collar member and connected at a second end to a cinch ring,

wherein a lower portion of said snout loop is drawn through the cinch ring to close the canine jaw.

8. (amended) The canine head halter according to claim 7, wherein a dog leash is connected to the lower portion of said snout loop after being drawn through the cinch ring.

9. (amended) The canine head halter according to claim 7, wherein a retaining ring is attached about the lower portion of said snout loop after being drawn through the cinch ring to thereby retain the drawn relation of the lower portion of said snout loop through and the cinch ring.

10. (previously amended) The canine head halter according to claim 7, wherein the non-flat portion of said snout loop has rounded edges to thereby reduce chafing.

11. (previously amended) The canine head halter according to claim 7, wherein said first and second cheek straps are respectively connected to said collar member by respective first and second rings.

12. (previously amended) The canine head halter according to claim 11, wherein the first and second rings are metal.

13. (previously amended) The canine head halter according to claim 11, wherein said first and second cheek straps are respectively connected to said snout loop by respective third and fourth rings.

14. (previously amended) The canine head halter according to claim 13, wherein the third and fourth rings are metal.

15. (amended) The canine head halter according to claim 7, wherein the non-flat portion of said ~~snout loop~~ snout loop is cotton/nylon braid having a cylindrical shape.

16. (amended) The canine head halter according to claim 7, wherein said collar member includes a top strap respectively directly connected at first and second ends thereof to first and

second metal rings, and a bottom strap respectively directly connected at first and second ends thereof to the first and second rings to thereby form a continuous loop.

17. (amended) A canine head halter, comprising:
 - a collar member configured and arranged to encircle a canine neck behind the ears and below the chin, said collar member including top and bottom straps respectively connected by first and second metal rings;
 - a snout loop configured and arranged to encircle the canine snout including an upper nose member directly connected by closed ends to third and fourth metal rings, and an under chin member respectively connected by to the third and fourth metal rings;
 - a first cheek strap connecting the first and third metal rings, and a second cheek strap connecting the second and fourth metal rings; and
 - an under chin strap connected at a first end to the bottom strap of said collar member and connected at a second end to a fifth ring,
wherein a portion of said snout loop is drawn through the fifth metal ring to close the canine jaw.

18. (previously amended) The canine head halter according to claim 17, wherein the first cheek strap rotates about a portion of the first ring and rotates about a portion of the third ring to conform to the canine head.

19. (previously added) The canine head halter according to claim 18, wherein the second cheek strap rotates about a portion of the second ring and rotates about a portion of the fourth ring to conform to the canine head.

20. (previously amended) The canine head halter according to claim 17, wherein the first cheek strap rotates about a portion of the first ring and a portion of the third ring, and the second cheek strap rotates about a portion of the second ring and a portion of the fourth ring such that the canine head halter conforms to the canine head.

21. (previously added) The canine head halter according to claim 17, wherein the upper nose member of said snout loop is a unitary non-flat member.

22. (amended) A canine head halter, comprising:
a collar member configured and arranged to encircle a canine neck behind the ears and below the chin, said collar member formed from piercible woven fabric that is permanently attached at a first end to a buckle, said buckle connecting the first end of said collar member to a plurality of positions along a second end of said collar member by piercing through spaces defined by weaves of the woven fabric;
a snout loop configured and arranged to encircle directly contact the canine snout including an a lofted upper nose member with closed ends connected to and an under chin member;
first and second cheek straps directly connecting the collar member to said snout loop; and
an under chin strap connected at a first end to said collar member and connected at a second end to a cinch ring,
wherein a portion of said snout loop is drawn through the cinch ring to close the canine jaw.

23. (amended) The canine head halter according to claim 22, wherein the upper nose member of said snout loop is a unitary non-flat member.

24. (previously added) The canine head halter according to claim 22,
wherein said first cheek strap is connected to said collar member by a first ring and said second cheek strap is connected to said collar member by a second ring, such that said first and second cheek straps rotate about respective portions of the first and second rings to conform to the canine head, and
wherein said first cheek strap is connected to said snout loop by a third ring and said second cheek strap is connected to said snout loop by a fourth ring, such that said first and second cheek straps rotate about respective portions of the third and fourth rings to conform to the canine head.

25. (amended) The canine head halter according to claim 22, wherein said lofted upper nose member the non flat portion

Serial No.: 09/736,408

Atty. Docket: 4523-001

~~of said snout loop~~ has rounded edges to thereby reduce chafing
and all rings are metal.